

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 105061

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ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66608

DRAFTED BY: EA/ANP: JFKNOWLES:MHS

APPROVED BY: EA/ANP: LJMOSE

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R 061311Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO RUEHBAC/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 7327

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 105061

FOLL REPEAT CINCPAC REP GUAM DTG 032101Z MAY 75 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO JCS AND USCINCRD:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N00000//

STATE FOR EA/VN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE

REFUGEE CAMP SITUATION IN GUAM AND SPECIAL INQUIRIES

A. SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 100262

A. REFTEL ASKED PETERS TO LOOK INTO CASES OF CONGEN CAN THO AND NHA TRANG HOUSEHOLD STAFF, AND MAKE GENERAL INQUIRIES ABOUT THE EVACUATION STATUS OF CONGEN DANANG AND NHA TRANG EMPLOYEES ON BEHALF OF CONSULS GENERAL SPEARS AND FRANCIS. THIS REPLY GOES BEYOND THOSE INDIVIDUAL CASES IN UNDERTAKING TO EXPLAIN THE CAMP SITUATION IN GUAM. FOR THAT REASON IT MAY BE OF BROADER GENERAL INTEREST TO THE TASK FORCE AND OTHERS.

2. REGARDING PARAS 1 AND 02 OF REFTEL, WE HAVE FINALLY BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT MISS HOANG ARRIVED IN GUAM ON APRIL 23, BUT WE HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE EITHER HER OR MISS NULIEN. WE HAD ONE REPORT THAT BOTH HAD LEFT FOR PENDLETON ON MAY 1 BUT WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO POSITIVELY CONFIRM THAT. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS.

3. A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE BACKGROUND OF THE REFUGEE INFLOW AND THE REFUGEE CAMP SITUATION ON THE ISLAND MAY HELP THE TASK FORCE AND
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 105061

OTHERS UNDERSTAND WHY THE HANDLING OF INDIVIDUAL INQUIRIES POSES

PROBLEMS AND WHY EXTENSION OF SPECIAL TREATMENT TO PARTICULAR GROUPS (E.G. USG EMPLOYEES) IS DIFFICULT.

4. EVACUEES WERE SELDOM MOVED FROM SAIGON IN DISCRETE GROUPS (DAO, EMBASSY, USAID, FAMILIES OF GVN OFFICIALS, ETC.). RATHER, IN THE USUAL CASE, EACH PLANE CARRIED SOME PEOPLE FROM EACH OF THE VARIOUS CATEGORIES. THE MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAS DONE AN ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE JOB OF RECEIVING AND ACCOMMODATING THE HUGE REFUGEE INFLOW, BUT THE RAPIDITY OF THE BUILDUP PROHIBITED SEPARATION OF THE VARIOUS GROUPS UPON ARRIVAL. ACCORDINGLY, CAMP POPULATIONS IN EACH OF SOME 12 CAMP SITES IN WIDELY SEPARATED PARTS OF THE ISLAND ARE THOROUGHLY MIXED. CATEGORIES SUCH AS EMBASSY, DAO, GVN FAMILIES, ETC. ARE TO BE FOUND IN MANY IF NOT ALL CAMPS AND IN SCATTERED LOCATIONS WITHIN EACH CAMP. AT THE SAME TIME, COMMUNICATIONS AMONG CAMPS AND HEADQUARTERS AS WELL AS WITHIN THE CAMPS ARE VERY LIMITED. A COMPUTER LOCATER SYSTEM OPERATED BY THE RED CROSS WITH NAVY COMPUTER SUPPORT IS HELPFUL, BUT DATA IN THE SYSTEM ARE NOT COMPLETE. THE LOCATOR SYSTEM'S UTILITY IS FURTHER LIMITED BY THE DIFFICULTY OF KEEPING UP WITH PEOPLE DURING THE RAPID, MASSIVE THROUGHFLOW, AND BY FREQUENT SELF-RELOCATION WITHIN THEIR CAMPS BY EVACUEES.

5. THE LOCATING OF INDIVIDUALS IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES IS THUS DIFFICULT, TIME CONSUMING, AND OFTEN ENDS UP IN A FRUITLESS SEARCH. THE FACT THAT AVAILABLE OFFICERS ARE ENGAGED IN OTHER TASKS ALSO HAS LIMITED OUR ABILITY TO HANDLE SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL INQUIRIES QUICKLY. CONDITIONS ALSO MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO GIVE THE SPECIAL ATTENTION WE WOULD LIKE TO GIVE TO U.S. MISSION EMPLOYEES WHO ARE SO WIDELY SCATTERED, AND IN ANY EVENT THERE IS NOTHING WE CAN OFFER THEM IN THE WAY OF SPECIAL TREATMENT OTHER THAN VISITS BY AMERICAN OFFICERS WHICH WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO MAKE TO EACH CAMP WHEN TIME PERMITS TO TRY TO FIND MISSION GROUPS JUST TO ASSURE THEM THAT THEY ARE NOT FORGOTTEN. IF WE DEVOTE EXCESSIVE TIME TO THESE ENDEAVORS, THE EFFECT COULD BE TO SLOW DOWN THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE TO CONUS.

6. WE HOPE THIS WILL GIVE THE TASK FORCE AS WELL AS SPEARS AND FRANCIS A BETTER IDEA OF THE SITUATION HERE AND THE PROBLEMS WE FACE WITH RESPECT TO SPECIAL INQUIRIES AND THE HANDLING OF U.S. MISSION EMPLOYEES. THE LATTER ARE, OF COURSE, AS A GENERAL RULE AMONG THE EARLIEST PROCESSED BY INS FOR ONWARD MOVEMENT TO CONUS BECAUSE THEY ARE WITHIN THE HIGH RISK CATEGORY AND IN THAT SENSE ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF FAVORABLE TREATMENT.

7. WE RECOGNIZE THAT SOME SPECIAL INQUIRIES ARE INEVITABLE AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO OUR BEST TO DEAL WITH THEM EXPEDITIOUSLY WHEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 105061

THEY ARE RECEIVED. EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OR OTHER SPECIAL TREATMENT IS ALSO INEVITABLE IN SOME CASES (I.G. INTERPRETERS FOR PENDLETON AND CHAFFEE) AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY IN SPECIAL CASES.

GDS 81
UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RELIEF, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE105061
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/ANP: JFKNOWLES:MHS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750158-0882
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750577/aaaacset.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: CINCPAC REP GUAM DTG 032101Z MAY 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEE CAMP SITUATION IN GUAM AND SPECIAL INQUIRIES
TAGS: SREF, VS, GQ
To: CANBERRA WELLINGTON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006